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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

TO THE

ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR

1953

Council Offices,
ST. JUST.

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1953.

The Chairman of the Council (Councillor W. T. Warren).

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. W. Holman.

Councillors: J. D. Jowett

N. Barnes

W. N. Harvey

H. G. R. Mason

J. Oats

James Rowe

John Rowe

W. H. Rowe

A. Warren

K. R. Woolcock

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health

W. K. DUNSCOMBE, M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

W. G. S. KNEEBONE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
M.R.I.P.H.& H.

To the Chairman and Members of

ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

In presenting the Annual Report for 1953 there is little upon which to comment which is not dealt with in the text. The slow progress towards a proper water and sewerage system makes it inevitable that environmental hygiene becomes more and more important and now we can say that as far as this district is concerned the personal services have outstripped the others. In the past this has been the fault of previous Councils to some extent at least, but now there is no doubt that there is a welcome willingness to proceed as fast as Ministries will permit.

It is all the more unfortunate, therefore, that events outside the Council's control seem to have combined to impede the progress which is still so necessary.

In concluding I should like again to thank the Council for their courtesy and the attention they give to matters of public health and it is a pleasure to acknowledge the co-operation given to the Department by the Clerk of the Council and his staff. I am most grateful for the very ready and willing assistance given by the Sanitary Inspector/Surveyor who has been a most helpful colleague.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. K. DUNSCOMBE,

Medical Officer of Health.

ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION.
1953.

1.	Civilian Population	4,007
2.	Area	7,761 acres.
3.	Rateable Value	£13,895.
4.	Product of 1d. Rate	£52. 4s. 10d.
5.	No. of Inhabited Houses	1,420
6.	Live Births. 26 Male, 34 Female	60 Total
	Rate per 1,000 Population 15	
7.	Still Births. 1 Male, - Female	1 Total
	Total Rate per Total Births -	
8.	Total Deaths. 29 Male, 31 Female	60 Total
	Rate per 1,000 Population 15	
9.	Infant Deaths. 4 Male, - Female	4 Total
	Rate per 1,000 Live Births 33·4	
10.	Maternal Deaths NIL.	

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	5	-	5
- Other..	1	-	1
Cancer - Stomach	1	2	3
- Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
- Breast..	-	4	4
- Other Sites..	3	1	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	2	2
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ..	3	1	4
Heart Disease, Angina	5	6	11
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-	1
Other Heart Disease	2	5	7
Other Circulatory Disease..	2	3	5
Pneumonia	-	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ..	1	2	3
Accidents	1	1	2
	29	31	60

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart Disease	19.
Cancer	12.
Tuberculosis	6.

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1. VITAL STATISTICS

The estimate of population is practically the same as last year and as I have said before the figures for infant mortality are very small and therefore subject to relatively large fluctuations.

It should be noted that pulmonary tuberculosis was equal third in the causes of death which emphasises the importance of getting at the contacts of such cases so that they can be fully examined and placed under treatment at once if that is found to be necessary. It is hoped, however, that this fugure represents the last effects of tuberculosis combined with silicosis on a previous generation of miners and that we can look forward to a much lessened incidence.

2. WATER SUPPLIES

No. of houses	(1)	On mains supply	687
	(2)	With standpipe supply ..	144
	(3)	Without supply	621

The Drift Scheme is described below but some amendments to the existing arrangements have taken place.

(a) St. Just Churchtown.

As far as the Churchtown supply is concerned the pump supply from Nancherrow was greatly improved by the substitution of an electric motor for the oil engine used previously. By this means it has been possible except when water supplies are very plentiful to regard it as the main source rather than that from the adit at Praze which has been the principal supplier for so long. However, the difficulty at Nancherrow is that the water is pumped direct into a distribution main and not into the reservoir. Towards the latter part of the year the question of chlorination was again raised and this time the Council approved it but having decided to apply for a loan sanction this naturally meant delay while the Ministry of Housing and Local Government considered the matter. This inevitably brought up the Drift Scheme which seems to that Department a sort of panacea for all ills however many years it may be away. Thus it has been necessary to negotiate a fresh agreement with the owner of the water rights of the Praze supply.

(b) Carnyorth.

At last the well has been cleaned, the upper part made impermeable, a concrete collar put round the mouth and a hand pump with handle put down, thus doing away with the bucket and windlass. It is of course the most temporary of improvements but none the less a great deal better than what was there previously.

(c) Trewellard.

The unsatisfactory arrangement which I have repeatedly criticised in past years whereby a man goes down the shaft and pumps by hand when there is no overflow, is now to be altered in the way I have suggested before. That is by an electric submersible pump to drive the water up to a 6,000 gallon tank above ground. It is hoped that this work will be completed by the end of 1954 as this will effect a permanent improvement in the supply and result in a substantial economy. In effect it should mean that the whole of this area will get a reasonable supply of water except in a prolonged drought.

(d) Boscaswell and Pendeen.

There has been no improvement here and the proposed building of further Council houses with their modern amenities will merely aggravate the matter and cause a great deal of envy amongst the other residents. Provided the supply is adequate it should however be possible to pump to a tank which would then supply most of this area even by standpipes. This part of the district has been neglected for years, and though a great deal of publicity has been made of the donkey with the water barrel it must be admitted that this combination has been of great assistance to those who are unable for any reason for example age or infirmity, to go to the existing source at the leat.

Drift Scheme.

This was due for a little progress so in March officials from the three Councils concerned visited the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in company with the Consulting Engineers to get some guidance as to procedure. Parliamentary Agents were then appointed to draft the necessary orders for the acquisition of the land and for the formation of the Joint Committee to manage the Dam and Headworks.

One of the proposals was to reduce the compensation water from 500,000 gallons per day as provided in the Penzance Water Act of 1938 to 300,000 gallons per day as this would have meant a reduction in the height of the dam and lessened its cost by about £15,000.

An informal draft was sent to the Ministry in October but progress was impeded by the presentation of a memorial to the Ministry by the St. Ives Borough Council to incorporate the parish of Hayle. This meant a public enquiry which was heard early in December and it was very evident that the impact of such a proposal on the finances of the West Penwith R.D.C., and so on its ability to pay its share of the cost of the Dam and Headworks was so great as to necessitate the most careful consideration.

The Ministry's decision on the draft proposals was not sent until Christmas and meant that the orders had to be altered and replaced by a bulk supply agreement in which Penzance Borough would act as suppliers, though the Joint Committee which was proposed could still remain in being.

Further instructions had to be sent to revert to the original idea of 500,000 gallons per day compensation water.

These ideas altered the position completely and of necessity required reconsideration of the project by each of the Authorities and as a result of the delays which have occurred, what it amounts to now is that even if anything went on from now at a reasonable pace it would not be possible for St. Just to draw water from the Drift Scheme for a number of years at the least. Therefore any comments from the Ministry about improvements in the meantime have to be judged by this time lag and the unfortunate inhabitants of Boscaswell and Pendeen must go on obtaining their water from the leat for a further extensive period unless the suggestions mentioned previously come to fruition. As a matter of record it should be said that the proposals for an improvement in their supply started as far back as 1901. As a contrast if a supply had been required for war purposes it would have probably been obtained in about five minutes.

3. SEWERAGE.

The nuisance at Boscean still continued throughout the year though towards the end considerable efforts were made to hasten the submission of the proposals to the Ministry. It will be a happy day when we can say that this problem is finally solved.

4. HOUSING.

Once again I regret to record very slow progress in this extremely urgent question. The position is that the waiting list is large in comparison to the population of the district, the Council has the largest proportion of families living in requisitioned houses of almost anywhere in the County and there is a large number of houses which should be dealt with by slum clearance, but on which action has to be held up as there is nowhere to put the people affected.

Writing in 1954 there does seem now a chance of some material progress so that in the next report I may be able to give a more rosy picture. As matters stand now it is obvious that persons having severe housing difficulties are likely to move out to those areas where there is at least a chance of getting a house within a reasonable time. The consequence is that this district continues to lose the young people which it is imperative to retain if the population is not to show a progressive fall.

One point I am glad to state is that the Council have been mindful of the problem of housing old people and even in the preliminary proposals for extension of the Boscaswell site it is suggested that there shall be some accommodation for elderly persons.

No. of houses built by private enterprise .. NIL

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

This fortunately continues to show a low incidence and though the response now to diphtheria immunisation is not as good as it might be having regard to the excellent record in this respect that this district has had in the past there is still a number of parents who very wisely continue to take advantage of the facilities offered. This is emphasised now in the arrangements made for combined immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough. This was instituted by the County Council as the Local Health Authority early in the year and has been a pronounced success as far as the actual attendance of potential sufferers goes. It is still too early to state how definite an effect it has in the prevention of whooping cough. On the other hand on account of its efficacy diphtheria has become a rare disease in the country.

6. SCHOOL SANITATION.

No apology is made for returning to this subject as in no other has progress been so slow. The fundamental question is water and certainly for the past few years it would have been a relatively easy matter to have drilled for water. The Local Education Authority have not shown any initiative in this matter and therefore must bear the responsibility now though since the schools date from 1887, others have shown themselves equally slow. The parrot cry of the Drift Scheme serves with the other one - the Development Plan - to ensure that nothing whatever is done. Since the drilling of wells is relatively cheap, there is absolutely no excuse and in the case of Pendeen a sewer is not far away. Thus for an infinitesimal amount of the £3,000,000, spent on education in this County per year, it would be possible to effect an immediate and permanent improvement to the standard of hygiene

in that school. The present position with drinking water having to be brought in by bucket from the leat and with the most disgusting privies as sanitary accommodation, is a disgrace. The situation at Carnyorth and Kelynack is little better and it is impossible to teach even the rudiments of hygiene while such conditions obtain and propaganda on food hygiene can hardly be expected to make much progress.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year ending December, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
St. Just Urban District Council.

August, 1953.

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to present my second Annual Report for 1953 on the Sanitary circumstances of the District.

The year under review was one in which the Council's deliberations produced good foundations upon which the ensuing years, it is hoped, will find being built an even healthier environment than that which now exists.

The improvement of water supplies, acquisition of new housing sites, St. Just Churchtown Sewerage improvements and public cleansing have all received considerable attention. Brief details will be given in the following pages of this Report.

Rodent Control work continued and the Maintenance Treatment of sewers and refuse tips was carried out.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

No new mains were laid in the statutory area of supply. Activity was confined to service pipe renewals.

Major overhauls to and partial renewal of the pumping machinery in the St. Just Churchtown area of supply was undertaken and satisfactorily completed.

Tests were made at the Wheal Bal Shaft, Trewellard, in preparation for the installation of an electric submersible pump to replace the existing hand pump.

I submitted a report on the urgent need for an adequate and wholesome supply for the whole Urban District, to the Minister of Housing and Local Government in March when, with other Officials I visited the Ministry in connection with the Drift Scheme. The report mentioned, inter alia..... "that approximately one half of the population of the District are without a piped or standpipe supply. More than 200 out of 550 school children attending the four schools in the area have to rely on pails of water for drinking purposes. This water has to be boiled before being consumed..... It is a vital necessity for the district to be served with an adequate, wholesome, piped water supply".

While one half of the people yet wait for a piped water supply the manifold difficulties to maintain the minimum standards of hygiene in their homes must increase with the advancing years.

SEWERAGE

Sewage disposal is principally by sea outfalls, one at Pen Nanven and one at Trewellard Zawn. The former serves St. Just Churchtown while the latter serves, Trewellard, Pendeen and Boscaswell Village.

There is a small septic tank at Higher Bojewyan.

The Boscean outfall consisting of a series of disused mine shafts is over-burdened and a nuisance to say the least. Here crude sewage flows into the Nancherrow stream.

In an effort to abate this long standing nuisance the Council instructed their Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Lemon & Blizard, to submit details of an approved Sewerage Scheme, (i.e. relief sewers in St. Just Churchtown, a new sewer for the Tregeseal Valley and a new outfall works) to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for consideration as to the amount of Grant they might reasonably expect to receive in aid of the Scheme. As the result of a preliminary survey by the Consultant Engineers yet another method of constructing outfall works was suggested, viz :- the construction of a gravity main instead of a sewage works. Such a method, if practicable, should result in a considerable financial saving.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT

		Inspections
General Sanitation	Water Supply	58
	Drainage	47
	Tents, Vans & Sheds	1
	Complaints..	40
	Sewage outfalls..	5
Housing	Verminous Conditions..	Nil
	Inspected for housing defects ..	7
Miscellaneous Inspections	Cinemas etc.	2
	Public Convenience	35
	Refuse Tips.	16
	Re Rat Destruction	12
	Visits to Council Houses	8
	District Inspection	5

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

Dwelling Houses	Roof repaired	6
	Eaves gutters and fall pipes provided or repaired	3
	Walls repaired	6
	Windows repaired	2
	Houses provided with sinks. ..	2
	Paving provided..	1
	Defective ceilings repaired	2
	Houses provided with Bathrooms..	7
	Defective W.C.s repaired	Nil
	Houses provided with W.C.s ..	8
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	2
	Houses provided with drainage ..	4
	Choked drains cleansed	2
Sewers	Sewers cleansed or repaired ..	19
Miscellaneous	Statutory Notices issued	1
	Preliminary Notices served. ..	7

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	7	8	-	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	16	10	-	-
(111) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	Nil	Nil	-	-
TOTAL	23	18	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	-	-

RODENT CONTROL

The arrangements for Rodent destruction were not altered. The Council's Operator is part-time only and little work outside of sewer and refuse tip maintenance was undertaken.

HOUSING

Housing work was restricted to dealing with maintenance of property in as reasonable a condition as possible.

The Council did not build any houses during the year. Their activities were confined to site acquisition at Lower Boscaswell and in spite of a great effort to secure a site by negotiation with the Owner, it appeared at the end of the year that Compulsory Purchase would have to be entertained. While negotiations were in progress, however, the Council's Architects surveyed the site and prepared a site layout for a further 64 dwellings.

The number of houses now owned by the Council is 39.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

61 visits were made to Meat and other Food Shops including Bakehouses. In connection with the inspection of food the following meat and other food stuffs were condemned :-

Beef	362 lbs.
Canned Meat	47 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	7 lbs.
Canned Fruit	8 lbs.
Canned Milk	5 lbs.
Miscellaneous canned foods.	1 lb.
TOTAL.....	430 lbs.

LICENSED HOUSES

The sanitary accommodation of these premises was kept under supervision and no complaints regarding their cleanliness were received.

CINEMA AND MUSIC HALLS

These places for Public Entertainment were inspected. Reports were made to the Licensing Authority when necessary.

CAMPING SITES

There are two licensed camping sites in the area.

Neither gave any cause for complaint during the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE

There is only one Public Convenience in the District. This was cleaned daily and gave little cause for complaint.

The revenue received for the year ending 31st March 1954 was £19. 13s. 7d.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

During the year under review a weekly collection of house refuse was carried out over the whole District as from 1st April. This is a great improvement over last year, when only the St. Just Churchtown enjoyed this frequent service. A weekly service throughout the District was in no small measure due to the collection service being divorced from all other services, and to householders supplying sanitary dustbins.

A weekly collection of Nightsoil was carried out where necessary throughout the District.

Refuse was disposed on three tips, one at Balleswidden (St. Just), one at Calartha Common (Pendeen) and one at Kelynack.

Since the collection team were not employed on other duties, it was possible to exercise a certain degree of control over the tips. No complaints concerning the tipping of refuse were received.

The collection team consisted of 3 males.

One 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam Lorry was employed. (This vehicle came into service during September - another marked improvement over the open topped Bedford Lorry).

The total cost of collection (1st April 1952 - 31st March 1953), was :-

Net cost of Collection	£1,253. 6. 8.
Net cost of Tipping Refuse.	£ 5. 12. 6.
TOTAL COST.....	£1,258. 19. 2.

STREET LITTER BINS were provided during the year at points throughout the area. I appeal to the public to make greater use of these bins as clean and tidy streets can only be kept as such at all times by the public rather than by the Local Authority street sweepers.

MORTUARY FACILITIES

There is one Mortuary provided in St. Just Churchtown. These premises were used also on occasions by the neighbouring rural Authority.

EMPTYING OF CESSPOOLS

When the need arose, privately owned cesspools etc. and those for which the Council were responsible, were emptied by a Cesspool Emptier hired from the neighbouring Authority.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation of the support received from the Council during the year also to record my thanks to the staff for their loyalty, zeal and devotion to their work, often outside the recognised hours of duty.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. STUART KNEEBONE

Sanitary Inspector

APPENDIX A

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(Corrected Notifications)

1953.

DISEASE	PENZANCE	ST. IVES	WEST PENWITH	ST. JUST
Scarlet Fever.	25	17	8	-
Whooping Cough.	21	28	78	1
Measles.	418	7	188	128
Diphtheria.	3	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	1	-	7	-
Acute Encephalitis.	2	1	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever.	1	-	1	-
Erysipelas.	2	-	-	-
Rheumatic Fever.	3	-	-	-
Malaria.	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	3	-
Acute Poliomyelitis. (Non Paralytic).	-	-	1	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

1953.

AREA	Number of children who completed a full course of Immunisation in 1953.			Number of children receiving Refresher Doses
	Under 5.	5 - 14.	Total	
Penzance	223	36	259	233
St. Ives	77	8	85	145
West Penwith Rural District	192	51	243	235
St. Just Urban District	39	6	45	109

APPENDIX B.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

AREA	Nos. on Reg. at 31-12-53.	1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	Over 65	TOTAL
PENZANCE:										
Pul. M.	91	-	-	-	1	3	1 (1)	5 (4)	-	10 (5)
Pul. F.	60	-	-	-	4	-	2 (1)	(1)	-	6 (2)
Non-Pul. M.	11	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Non-Pul. F.	12	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	(1)	3 (1)
WEST PENWITH:										
Pul. M.	49	-	-	-	2	-	-	3 (2)	(2)	5 (4)
Pul. F.	43	-	-	1	2	2	1	(1)	-	6 (1)
Non-Pul. M.	15	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Non-Pul. F.	14	(1)	1	-	-	1	-	-	(1)	2 (2)
ST. JUST:										
Pul. M.	25	1 (1)	-	1	-	1	1	2 (2)	(3)	6 (6)
Pul. F.	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Non-Pul. M.	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Non-Pul. F.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ST. IVES:										
Pul. M.	34	1	1	1	-	-	2	1 (1)	(1)	6 (2)
Pul. F.	21	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	5
Non-Pul. M.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Non-Pul. F.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

( ) = Deaths. TOTAL NOTIFICATIONS: 59 TOTAL DEATHS: 23